

Annual Report of the
Officer of Health for Chichester.

WEST STREET, CHICHESTER,

28th January, 1897.

TO THE WORSHIPFUL THE MAYOR, THE ALDERMEN, AND
THE TOWN COUNCILLORS, THE SANITARY AUTHORITY
OF THE CITY OF CHICHESTER.

GENTLEMEN,

I beg respectfully to lay before you my Annual Report of the Public Health of the City for the year 1896.

The number of births during the year has been 318 (viz.: 161 males and 157 females), an increase of 57 over 1895, which was 261; and estimating the population of the City (with the increase of births over deaths) to be, in round numbers, 10,700, the birth-rate is 29.7 per 1000 per annum, that of 1895 being only 24.6 per 1,000 per annum; in the 1st quarter there were 80 (viz.: 42 males and 38 females), in the 2nd quarter there were 73 (viz.: 29 males and 44 females), in the 3rd quarter 75 (viz.: 43 males and 32 females), and in the 4th quarter 90 (viz.: 47 males and 43 females).

The number of deaths registered during the year, exclusive of non-residents, who died at the Infirmary, has been 198 (viz.: 106 males and 92 females); the increase of births over deaths has therefore been 120; in the 1st quarter there were 44 (viz.: 21 males and 23 females), in the 2nd quarter 47 (viz.: 23 males and 24 females), in the 3rd quarter 56 (viz.: 33 males and 23 females), and in the 4th quarter 51 (viz.: 29 males and 22 females); making the death-rate to be for the 1st quarter 16.4 per 1000 per annum, for the 2nd quarter 17.2, for the 3rd quarter 20.8, and for the 4th quarter 18.8; and that for the whole year has been 18.5 per 1000 per annum, which is much higher than that for 1895 (which was a very healthy year), and the death-rate was only 14.2, that for 1894 was 16.9, and for 1893 was 15.6; and the average death-rate of the 33 largest towns in England for 1896 is 18.9 per 1000 per annum.

The following table shows the ages at which the deaths occurred:

Under 1 year	34	} under 5 years of age	...	56
1 year and under 5 years	...	22				
5 years	„	15	„	7		
15 „	„	25	„	5		
25 „	„	65	„	62		
65 and upwards	68			
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All ages	198			
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The deaths of persons between 70 and 80 years of age were 36, between 80 and 90 years, 17, and 1 aged 90, 1 at 91, and 1 at 93 years; the ages of persons from a distance who died at the Infirmary were—under 15 years, 5; 15 and under 25, 4; 25 and under 65, 5; 65 years and upwards, 4; = 18. There were 5 deaths at the Infirmary of residents in the City; and there were 11 deaths at the Workhouse; 2 between 70 and 80, and 2 between 80 and 90 years of age.

There were 176 Notifications of Infectious Diseases (including 6 from the Infirmary of persons from a distance); the 170 cases within the Chichester District consisted of:

*Typhoid Fever	117
Scarlet Fever	20
Diphtheria	18
Erysipelas	11
Small Pox	2
Puerperal Fever	1
Membranous Croup	1
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		170	
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* There were 2 in 1895, 1 in 1894, 16 in 1893, 7 in 1892, 1 in 1891.

The number of Notifications of Infectious Diseases in 1895 was only 55, and in 1894, 82. All the cases were promptly visited by me, and instructions given for isolation, disinfection, and general sanitary arrangements. The tables A and B of further details of the births and deaths for the year, as required by the Local Government Board, are completed, and accompany this Report. Of the 117 cases of Typhoid Fever within the district, there were only 2 deaths, 1 at Whyke and 1 at Portfield; of the 7 cases taken into the Infirmary from a distance, (1 of which was not notified to me) there were 4 deaths, 1 from East Dean, 1 from West Dean, and 2 from Bosham.

The above statement will show that there was a severe epidemic of Typhoid Fever raging in the City, and which continued from the beginning of May to the middle of October; and although there were several very severe cases, the majority were of a slight character, and made safe recoveries; there were about 80 houses infected with the disease, situated principally in Somerstown, St. Pancras, and Portfield, where insanitary arrangements chiefly prevail.

A Medical Inspector from the Local Government Board, DR. BULSTRODE, visited the City several times during the summer, and made searching investigations as to the nature, cause, and origin of the Fever, and the result of his enquiries will be embodied in an elaborate Report, which will be shortly laid before you.

There were 52 Patients admitted into the Isolation Hospital during the year, consisting of 31 cases of Typhoid Fever, 19 of Scarlet Fever, and 2 of Small Pox; in 1895 there were only 24 cases, and in 1894, 38, and in 1893, 56 cases, principally of Scarlet Fever. There were 17 cases of Typhoid Fever admitted into the Infirmary from the City, and 7 from a distance, and 13 taken into the Workhouse, and the remainder were attended at their own residences.

There have been 176 fresh houses supplied with water from the Chichester Water Company's Works during the year, raising the number at the end of 1896 to 1553, and this number will regularly and gradually increase in accordance with the requirements of the connections with the Main-drainage, and these latter are progressing very satisfactorily.

I have made upwards of 250 domiciliary visits during the year, with reference to the Notifications of Infectious Diseases, Complaints of Nuisances, &c., the details of which have been duly laid before the Sanitary Committee at their monthly meetings; and I have visited the Isolation Hospital twice or three times a week during the year.

In conclusion I respectfully and *urgently* beg again to call the attention of the Sanitary Authority to the necessity which still exists, for three or four Public Urinals being provided for the City.

I have the honour to remain, Gentlemen,
Your very obedient Servant,

CHARLES STURGES JONES,
Medical Officer of Health for Chichester.

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SCHOOL OF WORLD WAR II HISTORY